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PARENTS NOT FAMILIAR WITH TEEN DRIVING RESTRICTIONS

The Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) urges parents of newly registered drivers to know the rules of the road for teens. A recent survey showed that the passenger and curfew restrictions for young drivers are unknown or misunderstood by many parents.

On-the-road test appointments are mandatory for those under the age of 18 who have held a learner's permit for one year and one day. A recent survey of parents calling the DMVS reservation system to secure appointments for their children showed 20% were not aware of the midnight to 6:00am curfew for Class D license holders. 20% of those surveyed did not know that a Class D driver may not have any passengers in the vehicle that are not family members for the first six months that they are licensed. 53% of those asked did not know that after the first six months a Class D driver may not have more than three passengers in the vehicle under the age of 21 who are not immediate family members.

A newly passed law requires all drivers under the age of 18 to be enrolled in high school, graduated from high school, enrolled in a state approved home school program or must be working to achieve a GED. Many traffic or school conduct infractions are mandatory license suspensions. A student can have no more than ten unexcused school absences to obtain or keep a learner's permit or driver's license.

"I would like to urge every parent of a young driver to know and understand the teen driving requirements. Review the Georgia Driver's Manual as your child prepares for the exam. As parents we must continuously monitor a new driver's skills and maturity and insist that they obey all the rules of the road," said James R. Davis, DMVS Commissioner.

For more information check the DMVS website: www.dmv.ga.gov.